

Appln No. 09/884,183

Amdt date September 22, 2003

Reply to Office action of April 22, 2003

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) A method of breeding an animal line for experimental use, comprising:

preselecting a first population of one or more conspecific animal(s) comprising cells comprising chromosomes with telomeres of determinable lengths;

determining a statistical distribution of telomere lengths around cells of the animals of said first population;

permitting animal(s) with a desired distribution of telomere lengths to produce offspring.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising selecting the offspring to produce a second population, such that the statistical distribution of telomere lengths among the animals of said second population is modified compared to the distribution among the animals of said first population, wherein said second population is intended for experimental use.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of altering a telomere length of one or more chromosomes contained in a germ cell of an animal belonging to said first population.

Claims 8-20 (canceled)